

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 16, 2011. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Cox, Elston, Marley, Martin and Sotelo. Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, City Attorney Ron Coplan, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Interim Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no communication from Visitors.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- 1) City Council Minutes of May 2, 2011
- 2) Bills and Payroll totaling \$2,312,146.33
- 3) Petition to allow the YWCA of the Sauk Valley to close Sixth Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues from approximately 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on Saturday, June 18 for a basketball tournament
- 4) Approve Reimbursement #5 for TIF eligible expenses in the amount of \$25,998.52 for the Lincolnway-Lynn Boulevard TIF Project

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reappoint Carol Siefken, Louise Yemm, and June Shearer to the Library Board for three year terms as recommended by Mayor Lee; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee reversed the order of presentations on the agenda because Mike Mudge was not present.

David Geier from Allied Waste reported that collection of solid waste and recycling had both increased. Only 40% of the citizens are registered for Recycle Bank. Alleys and cart placement remain problems for the drivers. Notes have been placed on carts regarding their placement and cart placement is improving. The average weekly recycling is 18 to 19 pounds, which is almost double the average in most communities. Geier encouraged people to sign up for points at Recycle Bank and explained there is a green school program as well, that could turn into a \$5000 grant for a school. Points are not being spent; people could be saving up for larger rewards. The program has been successful, thus far. Alderman Sotelo asked how we are doing compared with

other communities. Geier stated it is difficult for Allied to determine because Sterling is one of the first communities to try Recycle Bank in Illinois; however, Recycle Bank feels that 40% participation is good.

Mike Mudge, with Rock River Energy Services in Oregon, Illinois, spoke on municipal aggregation. Illinois has recently deregulated energy services making it possible for municipalities to establish buying groups, called aggregate programs. Communities band together in order to purchase energy at a savings. In order to adopt the program, the City Council would pass an ordinance to put the issue on a referendum. Aggregation could save citizens and small businesses approximately 15% to 20% on their energy bills. It can be a source of good will for the City and citizens.

Alderman Cox asked who would do the billing. Mudge explained that Commonwealth Edison would do the billing. Alderman Cox asked for more information. Mayor Lee asked Mike Mudge to get the information to Manager Shumard for dissemination.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve a Proclamation declaring June 4-5, 2011, as American Cancer Society Relay For Life Day in Whiteside County; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Alderman Sotelo read the proclamation into the record. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve a Proclamation declaring May 15-21, 2011, as Emergency Services Week in Sterling; seconded by Alderman Cox. Alderman Elston read the proclamation into the record. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Marley made a motion to approve an Annexation Agreement with the New Life Lutheran Church detailing the provisions and responsibilities of the development located on Lynn Boulevard, west of Avenue E (YMCA Way); seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Marv Lofgren and Pastor Bill Sullivan with New Life Lutheran Church were present for any questions. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

An annexation hearing was held for the New Life Lutheran Church. No comments were offered. Alderman Cox made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2011-05-10 Providing for the Annexation of 20 acres of real property and the subsequent zoning of the subject property as R-1, One Family Residence District with a Special Use Permit for New Life Lutheran Church**; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Attorney Coplan explained there were several issues identified in the annexation agreement between L/J & Company, Karen Maxwell as trustee of the McFalls Farm Trust and the City of Sterling that led to the recommendation to table the matter. Coplan outlined concerns to be reviewed:

- Outdoor concert times – 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- Outdoor concerts pre-approved by the City
- No current classification in Liquor license to address “tailgating”
- Recapture agreement for sewer extension

Manager Shumard expressed the following concerns:

- How far the sewer would be extended
- City Planner’s concerns that concerts end by 10:30 p.m.
- Bus parking along Oak Grove Avenue, inhibiting the vision of vehicles pulling onto the street

Alderman Cox asked if there are time limits on high school sporting events. Attorney Coplan explained that outdoor concerts do not take place on high school grounds and the City has no jurisdiction over public schools.

Jock Heaton, attorney for L/J & Company, made a presentation. The property is a 19 to 20 acre complex. The primary use is a sports facility. Parking will be available for 1100 vehicles and the stadium will seat 4500 persons. The sewer will be extended to Lynn Boulevard, subject to recapture.

Attorney Coplan stated the recapture agreement would end in 20 years with the term of the pre-annexation agreement.

Larry Ybarra of L/J & Company stated this will be one of the finest football stadiums in the area. The football field will be artificial turf and the track will have an Olympic surface. Ybarra outlined the amenities of the complex as two concession stands, four locker rooms, an officials’ room, and cheerleaders’ hospitality room. Ybarra asked the Council for approval because if it is not approved tonight the project would be set back for another year. The football field takes 2½ months to install. He expects use from a four county wide area with 32 schools to take advantage of this field. The track will be 8 lanes, including a steeple chase for collegiate meets. The liquor issue is the only unresolved issue.

Jock Heaton stated the liquor issue would remain in the agreement so it cannot be dismissed. Coplan agreed that if the City and Petitioner cannot reach an agreement for liquor, the petitioner can de-annex the property.

Alderman Elston asked about parking for the football stadium if games would begin this fall. Ybarra stated the parking lot be ready, but not hard surfaced this year.

Alderman Cox reiterated concerns about sewer extension to Lynn Boulevard, events ending by 9:30 p.m., and bus parking prohibited along Oak Grove Avenue.

Alderman Martin expressed concern for schools renting the facility if they did not budget in advance.

Mike Papoccia stated that Newman currently rents Sterling High School stadium for football games and rent for this stadium would be no different. The track would be exceptional for sectional meets with 12 to 16 teams. There are endless possibilities.

Mike Papoccia believes that Newman High School could offer bus parking for events when necessary. Ybarra explained that more bus parking would be available along Avenue J when it is completed.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the Annexation Agreement between L/J & Company, Karen Maxwell as Trustee of the McFalls Farm Trust and the City of Sterling on property located adjacent to and east of Oak Grove Avenue, between West 23rd Street and West Lynn Boulevard, immediately north of Newman Central Catholic High School with the following changes:

- Concert events would be pre-approved by the City on an individual basis
- Concert events would end by 9:30 p.m.
- Sewer would be extended to Lynn Boulevard, with a recapture agreement
- Buses would not be parking along Oak Grove Avenue
- Liquor license would be reviewed by Liquor Commission

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – All. Nayses – None. Motion carried.

An annexation hearing was held for the L/J & Company Project. No comments were offered. Alderman Cox made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2011-05-11 Annexing approximately 21 acres of vacant property located adjacent to Oak Grove Avenue, between West 23rd Street and West Lynn Boulevard and immediately north of Newman Central Catholic High School and the subsequent zoning of said property as R-2 One Family Residence District with a Special Use**; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nayses – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the agreement for architectural services between the City of Sterling and Leo A Daly Company for design and structural modifications to the Coliseum building in the amount of \$276,000; seconded by Alderman Marley. Manager Shumard stated that this covers all architectural services and as estimated, is 8% to 15% of the project. Voting: Ayes – All. Nayses – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve the Final Payment for demolition and concrete crushing services to Northern Illinois Service Company in the amount of

\$52,986.69; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Final Plat of the Strawberry Fields Addition Subdivision; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Clerk Rombouts announced that the City will be accepting letters and resumes for the Alderman at Large position vacated by Mayor Lee and two positions on the Plan Commission.

Manager Shumard reported that street bids are due May 31 and more work will be dependent on those prices. Third Street work will begin May 18. June 15 will be an open house for the US Route 30 project. Clean and Green Day was supported by NICIL, Sterling High School's Service Learning and Assets Kids, the Chamber of Commerce, and Sterling Main Street. Downtown planters were filled with perennials, the gazebo at Grandon was re-stained, and plantings were done in the 600 block of East Third Street.

Alderman Elston thanked Chief Potthoff for the opportunity to ride along with an officer and better understand their challenges.

Alderman Martin made a motion to adjourn to a closed session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body as provided for under 5ILCS 120/2 and collective bargaining as covered under subsection (2) of 5ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 9:05 p.m.; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard reported website designs have been presented for choices. The new City Management Intern will start May 31.

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Martin made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk